(c) whether Government would consider to regulate the employment of domestic child servants with a view to provide them protection against inhuman treatment and low wages being paid by the employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) (a) and (b) There is no specific and authentic information available in regard to exploitation and harassment of domestic child labour, as no authentic census or survey has been conducted in this matter. However, the phenomenon of children working as domestic servants on account of socio-economic conditions cannot be denied. The policy of Government is to prohibit employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and other hazardous employments and to regulate the working conditions of children in other employments. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 seeks to ban employment of children in certain hazardous occupations|processes and regulate the working conditions of children in other employments where child labour is not legally prohibited. A Technical Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act to advise the Government regarding addition of more occupations|processes to the schedule of prohibited employments.

(c) The employment of children as domestic servants is in a widely scattered and unorganised sector and evolving a system for regulating this sector has not been found administratively feasible.

Free supply of water and electricity to farmers

1359. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide free supply of water and electricity to farmers for agriculture purpose;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, in what manner Governmen would support the farmers with a view to help them in competing with the soaring prices in the market;

(c) whether Government would subsidise supply of water, electricity and fertilizer etc. for agriculture purpose to provide the relief to farmers; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such subsidies ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While fixing the minimum support prices for the agicultural commodities, the cost of agricultural inputs like water, electricity, fertiliser, etc. are being taken note of.

(c) and (d) Supply of water and electricity to farmers is a state subject. The Central Government have no direct control on the tariffs fixed by the State Electricity Boards or by the State Irrigation Departments. Fertilisers are being subsidised taking note of the cost of production, including capital cost, transport cost and distribution.

Construction of over-bridges in Maharashtra

1360. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have recommended for construction of the over-bridges at (i) Tadali Railway crossing, (ii) Babupet Railway crossing; and (iii) Bisapur Railway crossing;

(b) whether the State Government have agreed to bear 15 per cent of the total cost of construction of the over-bridges;

(c) whether the Central Government have taken any decision in this regard;